

Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)

Regular Meeting – Thursday September 12, 2013 – 12:00 Noon

Town Manager's Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 12:00 P.M.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) - Chairman Mark Trahan, Betty Rosania, Joan Hughes, Dorcas McHugh, Tony Martino, John Adamian, Stathis Manousos - Town Council, Melanie Goodin - Chamber of Commerce, Peter Gillespie - Director of Planning and Economic Development and Denise Bradley - Assistant Planner.
3. Old Business
 - a. Vacant Property Updates - Peter Gillespie reported on the following properties:
 - 1178 Silas Deane Highway - Serious negotiations.
 - 1000 Silas Deane Highway – State grant application not awarded.
 - 982 Silas Deane Highway - Harvey Sprung having an issue marketing the property due to the condition of the adjacent property.
 - Jordan Lane Nursing Home - Orchestrating communication with owners and interested parties. The property is not actively being marketed. Up to date on their taxes.
 - b. Grant Status
 1. Heritage Interpretive Trail – HFGP and CT Humanities - Waiting to hear on the grant announcement.
 2. State Bond Commission – Church/Main Street Intersection - 3 engineering proposals recieved. Contract signed shortly and then traffic counts will commence. Public information likely available in the Fall.
 - c. Farmer's Market - There was a meeting on Tuesday with Doug Sacks, Betty Rosania and Peter Gillespie regarding future plans for the market. Betty Rosania noted that the Farmers Market has really succeded and that Doug Sacks indicated he would move towards a non-profit status if the EDIC desired. He is amenable to the EDIC direction given. Peter Gillespie noted that financially they are better off than they have ever been. A grant was recieved by the Department of Agriculture that the EDIC was going to match that may no longer be available because the protocols were not followed. Mr. Gillespie will consult with the Town Manager to see if he has strong feelings either way. He will also seek the Town Attorney's opinion. Mark Trahan noted that the EDIC needs to figure out how to reserve the even and and minimize risk at the same time. The process to become a non-profit can be quite lengthy and the relationship between the town and the Market would change in terms of financial support and in-kind services. Peter Gillespie reported that he will research the relationship other communities have with their local markets. Request a copy of the Market bylaws from Doug Sacks. Stephanie Jarm has been planning the Farm-to-Dinner table.
 - d. Revitalization Plan – Masonic Building and Comstock Ferre - Peter Gillespie noted that he had requested several changes to the plans. A dozen

copies of the final plan will be delivered in the next few weeks. He also noted that a formal application for the property has not yet been received by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Additionally, Comstock Ferre received approval from the Historic District Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission for parking and landscaping improvements.

4. New Business
 - a. Business Visitations - Tony Martino completed a visitation for First Niagara Bank. Send notification of previous assignments.
 - b. Breakfast Meeting - October - Mark Trahan discussed rescheduling the Breakfast from the Country Club to the Town Council Chambers and to promote the event as a Media Breakfast to show solidarity with the Chamber of Commerce and growing a stronger alliance. Dorcas McHugh suggested having the Tourism Commission participate in the meeting.
 - c. Town Calendar - 2014 - Peter Gillespie asked to schedule a Marketing Sub-Committee meeting to discuss the details of this project. Thursday, September 26th at 11:00 A.M. at Antiques on Main.
 - d. Façade Improvement Grant Applications - Peter Gillespie reported on the following:
 - 4 Hartford Avenue-Lenoche - The EDIC previously approved funding 50% of the painting of the building. They are preparing a request to fund additional improvements.
 - 832 Silas Deane Highway - Additional information from the applicant is being sought.
 - 376 Silas Deane Highway - Previously approved exterior work. The final match from the EDIC will be \$7,260.
 - 718 Silas Deane Highway - Wethersfield Diner - Reviewed by the Design Review Advisory Committee and received preliminary approval.
 - e. EDIC/Chamber of Commerce - Mark Trahan reported on a meeting with Tom Hemphill from the Data Services Department regarding website updates, a searchable Business Directory and the possibility of acquiring a Shop Wethersfield domain.
 - f. Salute To Business - Discuss the details of this event at the Marketing Sub-Committee meeting.
5. Other Business - There was no other business.
6. Reports
 - Town Manager's Report - No report was given.
 - Town Council Liaison's Report - Stathis Manousos reported on the following:
 - Closing out the books from the last fiscal year and ending with an approximately \$1 Million surplus
 - The WHS groundbreaking Home Improvement Program to incentivize homeowners to make residential home improvements

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report - Peter Gillespie reported on the following:

- Medical Marijuana Regulations
- 1267-1309 Silas Deane Highway/Goff Brook Shops application for Buffalo Wild Wings

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report - Dorcas McHugh noted that the new rack cards are being distributed and a new Photo Contest is being prepared.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report - No additional report was given.

Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report - Melanie Goodin reported on the following:

- Cornfest on September 21st ---Seeking volunteers
- Fireworks planning for Memorial Day Event
- Casino Bus event
- October 26th Halloween Event
- Business After Hours at William Ravies in October
- Business After Hours Halloween Party at Coldwell Banker in late October

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report - No additional report was given.

7. Chairman's Report - No additional report was given.
8. Sub-Committee Reports Marketing and Communications - Nothing additional to report.
Financial Strategies - Nothing additional to report.
Farmers' Market - Nothing additional to report.
9. Minutes – August 22, 2013 Meeting - Betty Rosania made a motion to approve the minutes. Tony Martino seconded the motion with a correction to the title. All voted in favor.
10. Next Meeting – October 10, 2013
11. Correspondence - There was no correspondence.
12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner